

## AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE (AI/AN) EDUCATOR CADRE PROJECT

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### APPLICATION INTRODUCTION

Spring 2021

Dear Educator,

THANK YOU for your interest in becoming a member of the Southern Oregon Education Service District's first cohort of the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Educator Cadre!

There are over 92 different federally and state recognized tribes in Jackson and Josephine counties with hundreds upon hundreds of students in our districts who identify as AI/AN. Much like the rest of Oregon, these students are disproportionately represented in rates of attendance, graduation, disciplinary incidents, and persistence in accessing post-secondary education.

**Beyond the family, we know that talented and committed educators have the greatest influence on student achievement.** Recognizing this fact, our SOESD AI/AN Educator Cadre Project seeks to recruit an exceptional group of educators. We are looking for a diverse group of passionate educators, including those who themselves identify as American Indian/Alaska Native. These educators must have at least five years of experience teaching and/or working with diverse learners and cultures as well as with designing and delivering effective lesson plans and course content to both adults and students.

Our goal is three-fold: to employ the Cadre in helping the Office of Migrant and Indian Education to provide fellow educators with SB13 "Tribal History/Shared History" training; to engage these educators in expanded professional development and training in the areas of equity, diversity, and culturally relevant pedagogy; and, to leverage these trained and culturally sensitive individuals as a resource not only for each other, but for the wider circle of education professionals in our region.

With support from the Office of Migrant and Indian Education, and parents in the AI/AN community, Cadre members will be empowered as AI/AN ambassadors who can advocate for culturally appropriate practices and for maintaining an educational environment that promotes equity, authentic conversation, and respect. These agents of change will help their schools and districts forge partnerships, host activities, and implement other actionable strategies for student success such as creating culturally relevant, hands-on lessons, and supporting AI/AN student unions.

We are excited about this opportunity to develop and grow a special group of educators focused on supporting American Indian/Alaska Native student and educator success. Our intent is to provide the Cadre – and by extension the entire SOESD ecosystem – a safe space for professional learning and dialogue and for exploring and embracing Indigenous perspectives. We look forward to receiving your application!

Together in appreciation and gratitude,

